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SUBJECT: FRANCE/UN: DRAFT REFORM RESOLUTION USEFUL; TIME TO
LIFT BUDGET CAP

REF: STATE 105146

¶1. (SBU) Embassy delivered reftel demarche points at opening of business on June 27 to MFA IO PDAS-equivalent Jean-Pierre Lacroix, DAS-equivalent Jean-Hugues Simon-Michel, and IO desk officer Nicholas Kassianides. Lacroix offered feedback on June 28 in which he emphasized French concurrence on reform priorities, with only minimal divergences. He underscored the utility of floating the draft resolution as a kind of marker for orienting the continuing debate on reform, but he advised against calling a vote at the present moment. He remarked that the French mission reports that the atmosphere at the General Assembly (GA) appears to have taken a turn for the better, that GA President Eliasson was making moves in the right direction, and that many G-77 members were now ready to engage on reform. Lacroix averred that the budget cap had served its purpose by provoking a healthy crisis in order to relaunch the debate on reform. The French MFA now favors lifting the budget cap by consensus, with U.S. and UK support.

¶2. (SBU) Comment and Biographical Note: Lacroix heads to New York in August as the new French Deputy Permanent Representative. Embassy has found him a constructive, accessible and collected interlocutor, authoritative and unerring in his presentation of French policy positions, extremely knowledgeable about the UN, and non-polemical in his approach to Embassy interlocutors.

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